1 Warm-up

Discuss.

- What sort of things scare you?
- Do you believe in ghosts? Why? / Why not?

2 Read

A. You will read an extract from the novel *The Canterville Ghost* by Oscar Wilde. First, read a summary of the story so far and look at the picture. Can you guess what the extract is about?

The Canterville Ghost

Oscar Wilde

When the American ambassador Mr Otis decides to buy Canterville Chase, Lord Canterville warns him that the house is haunted. Mr Otis doesn't believe in ghosts and agrees to buy it anyway. So Mr and Mrs Otis, their oldest son Washington, their daughter Virginia and their



two twin boys move into Canterville Chase. None of them are afraid, but something mysterious keeps happening. There is a bloodstain on the library floor. Washington cleans it every evening, but it reappears every morning. Washington is certain that it must be the ghost.

On the fourth night, the family was asleep by half past eleven. [1] It sounded like metal clanking and it was coming closer. He got up, put on his slippers calmly and went to his drawer to take out a bottle. He opened the door and stood face-to-face with an old man who looked terrible. He had dirty, long, grey hair and red eyes. He was wearing old-fashioned clothes which were torn and dirty. [2]

'My dear sir,' said Mr Otis. 'You really need to oil those chains. Would you put some of this on them? [3] ' Mr Otis left the bottle on a small table, closed his bedroom door and went to bed.

The ghost couldn't believe it! He hadn't succeeded! For a moment, he just stood there staring at the door. Then, filled with anger, he smashed the bottle on the floor, turned and ran down the corridor. [4] Two children appeared and a pillow flew past his head. The ghost disappeared through the wall and the house became peaceful once again.

[5] No one had insulted him in his three hundred years of haunting. During his successful career, he had terrified people with his skeleton, frightened others by making mysterious noises, and even scared people to death by appearing suddenly. 'These dreadful modern Americans can't treat me like this,' he thought. And he spent the rest of the night planning to take revenge.

4 Listen

You will hear a radio play of the continuation of the story in activity 2. Listen and write T for True or F for False.

1. Mr Otis saw the ghost painting the bloodstain. ○
2. The bloodstain changes colour every day. ○
3. The ghost appeared again on Sunday before the family went to bed. ○
4. The ghost tried some medicine, but he didn't like it. ○
5. The ghost managed to scare one member of the Otis family. ○

LIVEWORKSHEETS